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BOOK REVIEWS.

THE LAW OF REAL PROPERTY, Vol. VI. Edited by E. E. BALLARD. Logansport, Ind.: The Ballard Publishing Company, 1900.

This is the sixth of a series of volumes on the Law of Real Property which is being issued annually by the Ballard Publishing Company. Each volume is intended to show the entire progress of this branch of the law throughout all the states during the preceding year, and the general purpose of the series, as expressed in the first volume, is "to furnish a reliable medium that shall keep . . . the profession familiar with all the growth and change of the law of real property affected by current legislative enactments and judicial opinions; make them acquainted with the different systems of statute law on the subject, as created by the several states in the Union; keep before them the common law which yet remains in force, pointing out wherever it has been confounded with statutes or mutilated by careless judges; and as far as possible relieve both counsel and courts of the wearing drudgery of hunting for things which are hard to find, and save them from the embarrassment of following blind guides. . . ."

The reading, page by page, of the reports of the United States Supreme Court, and of all the reports of the courts of last resort of all the states, that are issued during each year, seems a stupendous task; yet such is the actual method adopted by the compilers of this work, and it is only by a careful process of exclusion that those cases which concern the law of real property are finally selected. From among these especial attention is paid to re-reporting in full or in substance those cases, which overrule other cases upon material points, which construe important statutes not before construed, or which make some application of legal principles to circumstances arising out of new inventions or changes in social conditions. The remaining cases are then either reported as especially noteworthy and supported by annotations from the authorities, or are epitomized and cited together as supporting the same legal principle.

From this mere outline of the method employed in compiling these volumes in furtherance of the purpose as stated, it must be evident that they constitute a most complete and concise compendium of the law of real property and one possessing the great advantage of containing all the recent decisions and statutes by reason of its being brought "up-to-date" year by year.

The practical value of each volume and of the series for the busy lawyer, is further enhanced by the most complete system of indexing used. Not only each volume indexed in such concise detail that the substance of each page can be seen at a glance by merely look-

ing at the index, but with each new volume a new and revised index of the subject-matter of all the volumes is issued. This index is at once simple to understand and most complete in detail.

C. T. B.

HAND-BOOK OF THE LAW OF BILLS AND NOTES. Third edition. CHARLES P. NORTON. St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing Company, 1900.

The value of the Horn-book series to the student and practitioner cannot be disputed. The plan of stating leading principles in bold-face type, enlarging upon the principles in the text saves much labor, and in addition fixes them firmly in the mind. This edition, according to the editor, Francis B. Tiffany, has been made necessary by the passage of the New York Negotiable Instruments Law (1897). The complete text of the statute is given in the appendix, and many references are made to it, changes from the existing law being pointed out. The industry of the author is proved by a large collection of cases. One ground of criticism may be stated to be that the book is too much like a mere digest of cases, and does not aim at presenting a judgment of decisions, as they do or do not conflict with the well established principles controlling the law of negotiable instruments. The foot-notes are very comprehensive. All cases which appear in case-books now in common use in law schools are cited in large type.

F. K. S.

THE LAW OF BILLS, NOTES AND CHEQUES. Second edition. By MELVILLE M. BIGELOW, Ph. D. Boston: Little, Brown & Company, 1900.

The first edition of this work, published in 1893, was well received by the public, and renders unnecessary an extended criticism of the second edition. The former was written with special reference to the English Bills of Exchange Act, 1882. Suggestions were made wherein the provisions of the act could be well used as a basis for the reform of the American law. The same plan, more thoroughly carried out, with the Negotiable Instruments Law of New York (1897) as the basic code, has been followed by the author in the second edition. Since the New York law was enacted a number of states have codified the law of negotiable paper as applied within their limits. Some important differences in legislation have therefore been pointed out. The full text of the act is given, and the Colorado statute is compared in some detail.

In general this edition is a marked improvement over the former. Several chapters are added, embodying the law that regulates the contracts of the certifier and vendor of negotiable paper. The text, owing to frequent references to the New York law, is generally revised, and its contents suggested by pointed *side notes*. At times, state doctrines are subjected by the author to severe criticism. He